

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A shipping platform comprising:  
[[a]] an elongate platform; and  
adjustable length pillars provided on either side and at both ends of the platform,  
[[the]] laterally opposed pairs of adjustable length pillars each having [[an]] a laterally  
extending upper cross-member interconnecting [[the]] upper ends thereof, each laterally  
extending upper cross-member being respectively movable with the upper ends of the  
laterally opposed pair of adjustable length pillars when the laterally opposed pair of  
adjustable length pillars are adjusted in length, the shipping platform being configured  
such that spaces between the laterally extending upper-cross members and the platform  
are open and free of structure which impedes passage of cargo between the pairs of  
laterally opposed adjustable length pillars onto the platform.
2. (Original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein the platform is provided with underside cross-members which are rigidly connected with the platform and which extend parallel with the upper cross-members.
3. (Currently amended) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 2, wherein the upper and ~~lower~~ underside cross-members are provided with openings by which the upper and lower cross-members are engageable with connection rails used to interconnect containers.
4. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 3, wherein the connection rails engage the containers in a side-by-side configuration.
5. (Currently amended) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 3, wherein the upper and ~~lower~~ underside cross-member is cross-members are provided with apertures which are so sized and located as to allow releasable interconnection with the connection rails they are engageable with to which the cross-members are engageable.

6. (Currently amended) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein the platform is flat and adapted to have vehicles and other oversized cargo ~~including boats, buses etc.~~ secured thereon.
7. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein the adjustable length pillars each comprise a base member rigidly connected with the platform and a telescopic member which is slidably disposed with the base member.
8. (Currently amended) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 7, wherein the upper cross-members interconnect upper ends of a pair of the telescopic members.
9. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 7, wherein the adjustable length pillars each further comprise a locking device which selectively locks the telescopic member in one of a plurality of positions relative to the base member.
10. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 9, wherein each locking device comprises a locking pin which is disposed through apertures which are formed in the telescopic member and the base member of the adjustable length pillars.
11. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a connection device which is provided on the platform and adapted to facilitate connection of cargo thereto.
12. (original) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 11, wherein the connection device is movable and selectively positionable on the platform.
13. (Currently amended) A shipping platform arrangement comprising:  
~~a shipping platform comprising:~~  
a platform; ~~[[and]]~~  
adjustable length pillars provided on either side and at both ends of the platform, ~~[[the]] laterally opposed pairs~~ of adjustable length pillars each having ~~[[an]] a laterally extending~~ upper cross-member interconnecting ~~[[the]]~~ upper ends thereof, each laterally extending upper cross-member being respectively movable with

the upper ends of the laterally opposed pair of adjustable length pillars when the laterally opposed pair of adjustable length pillars are adjusted in length, the shipping platform being configured such that spaces between the laterally extending upper cross members and the platform are open and free of structure which impedes passage of cargo between the pairs of laterally opposed adjustable length pillars onto the platform;  
and

first connection rails which are disposed over and connectable to the upper cross-members, the first connection rails being connectable to at least one container which is disposed adjacent the shipping platform.

14. (Currently amended) A shipping platform arrangement as set forth in claim 13, wherein the platform further comprises lower cross-members fixed to a lower side thereof, the lower cross-members being parallel to the upper cross-members, and wherein the shipping platform further comprises:

first connection devices which interconnect the first connection rails to the upper cross-members and to an upper side of the at least one adjacent container.

15. (original) A shipping platform arrangement as set forth in claim 14, further comprising second connection rails which are disposed under the lower cross-members and interconnected thereto by second connection devices which connect the second connection rails to lower sides of the at least one adjacent container.

16. (original) A shipping platform arrangement as set forth in claim 15, wherein the first and second connection devices comprise twist locks.

17. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein the adjustable length pillars are arranged on the platform so that a distance between the adjustable length pillars and the length of the platform are different and such that the adjustable length pillars are located inboard of longitudinally opposed ends of the platform.

18. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein a portion of the platform extends beyond the adjustable length pillars at at least one end of the platform.

19. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 1, wherein the spaces between the laterally extending upper-cross members and the platform are constantly open and free of structure which impedes passage of cargo between the pairs of laterally opposed adjustable length pillars onto the platform.
20. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 13, wherein the adjustable length pillars are arranged on the platform so that a distance between the adjustable length pillars and the length of the platform are different and such that the adjustable length pillars are located inboard of longitudinally opposed ends of the platform.
21. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 13, wherein a portion of the platform extends beyond the adjustable length pillars at at least one end of the platform.
22. (New) A shipping platform as set forth in claim 13, wherein the spaces between the laterally extending upper-cross members and the platform are constantly open and free of structure which impedes passage of cargo between the pairs of laterally opposed adjustable length pillars onto the platform.